

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/773,347

Examiner

Rezwanul Mahmood

Applicant(s)

TAGO ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/21/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3, 4, 7 and 8.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Juan Carlos Marquez, Reg. No. 34,072, on 05/09/2007 and in a telephone interview with Jenifer Tang, Reg. No. L0099, on 06/17/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 with the amended cleaned version of claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 as follows:

3. A computer implemented method of outputting a database search information in a database system for retrieving records using a search key and retrieving records from a plurality of databases in a chain-reactive manner, the method comprising:

a step of retrieving a record by entering an initial search key into an initial database;

a step of retrieving a subsequent record by entering a subsequent search key, which is contained in the retrieved record and different from the initial search key, into a subsequent database different from the initial database in a chain-reactive manner from the initial database via a plurality of sequent databases to provide subsequently

retrieved records as search results; and

a step of outputting, in the case that a first subsequent record retrieved from a first subsequent database on a chain-reactive search path does not contain a subsequent search key to be entered into a second subsequent database that is subsequently searched, information for identifying a first subsequent record that does not contain the subsequent search key and information for identifying the first subsequent database having the first subsequent record,

wherein in the step of retrieving subsequent records in a chain-reactive manner, information for identifying a group of search keys and a group of records retrieved through a series of retrieval processes in accordance with the search path is displayed in a matrix form using the databases and a group of the first search keys as indexes.

4. The computer implemented method of outputting a database search information according to claim 3, in the case that the first subsequent record that does not contain a subsequent search key to be entered into a second subsequent database is present among records retrieved from any intervening database other than the initial database and a pre-designated terminal database, the method further comprising:

a step of outputting the contents of the first subsequent record at the same time with said step of outputting information or in accordance with a specific operation,

wherein in the step of retrieving subsequent records in a chain-reactive manner, information for identifying a group of search keys and a group of records retrieved through a series of extraction processes in accordance with the search path is displayed

in a matrix form using the databases and a group of the first search keys as indexes.

7. A program stored in a computer readable medium for causing a computer to carry out a method of outputting a database search information in a database system for retrieving records using a search key and retrieving records from a plurality of databases in a chain-reactive manner, comprising:

- a module for retrieving a record by entering an initial search key into an initial database;

- a module for retrieving a subsequent record by entering a subsequent search key, which is contained in the retrieved record and different from the initial search key, into a subsequent database different from the initial database in a chain-reactive manner from the initial database via a plurality of sequent databases to provide subsequently retrieved records as search results; and

- a module for outputting, in the case that a first subsequent record retrieved from a first subsequent database on a chain-reactive search path does not contain a subsequent search key to be entered into a second subsequent database that is subsequently searched, information for identifying a first subsequent record that does not contain the subsequent search key and information for identifying the first subsequent database having the first subsequent record,

- wherein in the module for retrieving subsequent records in a chain reactive manner, information for identifying a group of search keys and a group of records retrieved through a series of retrieval processes in accordance with the search path is

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displayed in a matrix form using the databases and a group of the first search keys as indexes.

8. The program according to claim 7, in the case that the first subsequent record that does not contain a subsequent search key to be entered into a second subsequent database is present among records retrieved from any intervening database other than the initial database and a pre-designated terminal database, the program further comprising:

a module for outputting the contents of the first subsequent record at the same time with said module for outputting information or in accordance with a specific operation,

wherein in the module for retrieving subsequent records in a chain-reactive manner, information for identifying a group of search keys and a group of records retrieved through a series of retrieval processes in accordance with the search path is displayed in a matrix form using the databases and a group of the first search keys as indexes.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

After a search and a thorough examination of the present amended application and in light of the prior art made of record, claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 are allowed.

The prior art of record neither teaches nor fairly suggests in combination elements "a step of retrieving a subsequent record by entering a subsequent search key which is contained in the retrieved record and different from the initial search key, into a subsequent database different from the initial database in a chain-reactive manner", "a step of outputting, in the case that a first subsequent record retrieved from a first subsequent database on a chain-reactive path does not contain a subsequent search key to be entered into a second subsequent database that is subsequently searched, information for identifying the first subsequent database having the first subsequent record", "the search path is displayed is displayed in a matrix form using the databases and a group of the first search keys as indexes", as recited in the applicant's independent claims.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rezwanul Mahmood whose telephone number is (571)272-5625. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571)272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2164

May 11, 2007


CHARLES RONES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER